Question for written answer E-002516/2026
to the Commission
Rule 144
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Subject: Recognition of obesity as a chronic disease under EU public health policy

At the international level, the World Health Organization (WHO), followed by the American Medical Association in 2013, have already recognised obesity as a chronic disease.

According to Eurostat, over half of adults in the EU (50.6 %) are overweight, with 17 % suffering from obesity. According to the 2022 WHO European Regional Obesity Report, obesity has been linked to at least 13 types of cancer, diabetes, cardiovascular and musculoskeletal disease, as well as mental health disorders. The Blueprint for Action to Address Obesity estimates the annual cost of obesity at approximately EUR 70 billion.

Despite the European Association for the Study of Obesity (EASO) advocating for the recognition of obesity at the EU level and Parliament calling on the Commission to align with the 11th Revision of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-11) in its resolution of December 2023[1], the recognition, diagnosis, and treatment of obesity remain fragmented across the EU.

1. Does the Commission intend to recognise obesity as a chronic disease under European public health policy, and through which policy instruments and, if so, on what timeframe?

2. How does the Commission intend to support Member States in improving the recognition, research, and treatment of obesity?

3. Does the Commission intend to address the discrimination against persons suffering from obesity, particularly children affected by bullying, both offline and online?

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[1] Resolution of 13 December 2023 on non-communicable diseases (NCDs) (ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/C/2024/4171/oj).